

Kentucky Office of Homeland Security

"Ready and Prepared"

2004 Citizen Corps Working Group

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Kentucky Citizen Corps Working Group Mission Statement

To bring together leaders of the Commonwealth, local and community organizations to develop Commonwealth wide strategy for increasing the first responder and volunteer collaboration; develop Commonwealth wide marketing strategies; match Citizen Corps training needs with other major state training initiatives; and encourage every community in the Commonwealth of Kentucky to participate in Citizen Corps

FIRE CORPS

To Launch in December

In his 2002 State of the Union Address, President George W. Bush announced the creation of the USA Freedom Corps, which is an effort to foster a culture of service, citizenship, and responsibility, building on the generous spirit of the American people. One of the initiatives of USA Freedom Corps is Citizen Corps. Citizen Corps programs share the common goal of helping communities prevent, prepare for, and respond to natural disasters, and other emergencies at various levels of government.

One of the Citizen Corps partner programs is Fire Corps. Fire Corps is a partnership between The National Volunteer Fire Council (NVFC), the International Association of Fire Chiefs Volunteer Combination Officers Section (VCOS), the International Association of Fire Fighters (IAFF), and the White House's USA Freedom Corps Office. The program's ultimate goal is to support and supplement resource-constrained fire departments at all levels, volunteer, combination, and career. This will be accomplished through the use of civilian advocates for non-operational related activities. The program will educate fire departments on how to implement a non-operational citizen advocates program, or improve existing programs.

The foundation of this national initiative to help local fire departments is the Fire Corps website located at www.firecorps.org. This website serves as a gateway to information for fire and emergency services and citizens interested in volunteering in fire department programs.

Through this program, the NVFC, IAFC, IAFF, and USA Freedom Corps Office seek to:

- ⇒ learn about promising practices being used in existing non-operational volunteer programs;
- ⇒ share this information with fire departments that want to expand or improve their programs;
- ⇒ Increase the use of citizen advocates in existing programs;
- ⇒ help citizens learn about and get involved in Fire Corps programs in their communities; and
- ⇒ help agencies without a program to get one started.

First Year Program Activities

- ⇒ obtain and provide summaries of existing programs and examples of their organizational material (i.e., policies and procedures, liability waiver forms, training materials, volunteer applications, etc.)
- ⇒ develop a Resource Guide on Fire Service Non-Operational Volunteer Programs – a manual to assist in the implementation or enhancement of a fire department volunteer program;
- ⇒ develop an on-line directory of existing programs that potential volunteers can search to connect with a program in their community;
- ⇒ provide technical assistance; and training

Fire Corps will begin national roll out in December 2004. For further information please visit the website for updates at www.firecorps.org, or email us at info@firecorps.org.

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Fire Corps Director Hired

December 2004

Fire Corps is pleased to announce the hiring of Shawn P. Stokes as the Director of the new Fire Corps program. Shawn will lead the partnership between the National Volunteer Fire Council (NVFC), the International Association of Fire Chiefs' Volunteer Combination Officers Section (VCOS), the International Association of Fire Fighters (IAFF), and the White House's USA Freedom Corps Office.

The program's ultimate goal is to support and supplement volunteer, combination, and career fire departments through the use of citizen advocates for non-operational related activities. The program will educate fire departments on how to implement a program which utilizes citizens to assist departments in administrative functions, public education and variety of other activities which will relieve the burden of the front-line responders. "We are excited to be kicking off Fire Corps with a meeting of the Fire Corps National Advisory Committee on December 9th along with the imminent launch of our website," said Stokes. The website (www.firecorps.org), a major element of the program where fire departments can register their programs and citizens can find interested fire departments, will be on line by the first of December.

Shawn is a second generation member of the fire service, holds two degrees in aviation business and operations, and is a medic and the President of the Dunn Loring Volunteer Fire and Rescue Department in Fairfax County, VA. To contact Shawn or to obtain more information on Fire Corps please call 202-887-4809 or email the Fire Corps office at Info@firecorps.org

A CHRISTMAS WISH

From your chairman

Christmas will soon be here. Treat yourself, your family, your friends and coworkers to a very appropriate homeland security gift. Buy a backpack or suitcase to store three days of supplies so everyone is prepared to shelter in place or evacuate on short notice in the event of an emergency situation.

The contents should include water for cooking and sanitation, non perishable food, flashlight, battery powered radio, extra batteries, first aid kit, whistle to signal for help, dust mask or cotton tee shirt to help filter the air, moist towlettes for sanitation, wrench or pliers to turn off utilities, can opener, plastic sheeting and duct tape to shelter in place, garbage bags and ties for personal sanitation and soap.

Thank you so much for your volunteer efforts. I hope you have a safe, healthy and happy holiday season and a prosperous New Year.

Dr. Earl J. Motzer, Chair
Kentucky Citizen Corps

News Flash

GUBERNATORIAL AIDE NAMED DIRECTOR OF HOMELAND SECURITY



Fankfort, KY: Governor Ernie Fletcher and Lt. Governor Steve Pence announced today that Keith Hall is their choice to lead the Commonwealth's Office of Homeland Security.

"Keith is uniquely prepared to take on the complex coordination challenges associated with this position," said Governor knows Frankfort, and knows this state. His ability to communicate and advocate on all levels of government will ensure that our Commonwealth's commitment to homeland security and protecting Kentucky's families will be honored."

Since December, Hall has served as the Governor's Assistant for Boards and Commissions and was promoted to Deputy Chief of Staff in June. He also served as Deputy Chair of Gubernatorial Transition upon the Governor's election last November. An attorney, Hall lived in New York from 2001 to 2003 while working in the corporate headquarters of Insight Communications, Kentucky's largest cable television company, as its Vice-President for Government and Regulatory Affairs. He was an Associate in the law firm of Pedley Zielke Gordinier and Pence in Louisville and was also a Congressional Aide to U.S. Congresswoman Anne Northup.

US Congressman Hal Rogers, Chairman of the Appropriations Subcommittee for Homeland Security praised Hall's selection. "I look forward to working with Keith to ensure Kentucky continues to be among the nation's leaders in prevention and preparedness initiatives. He has my every confidence that the Office of Homeland Security will serve as good stewards of the federal dollars we work hard to get for Kentucky," said Chairman Rogers.

Attached to the Office of the Governor, Homeland Security officials have administered nearly \$40 million dollars in grants to state and local governments.

Just last week Homeland Security Secretary Tom Ridge applauded the Office by recognizing this office as a "model for the rest of the country."

"Erwin Roberts has built a strong operational and strategic foundation for the Office of Homeland Security. Keith will build upon that foundation by focusing on communication and garnering the necessary resources to ensure our Commonwealth is best prepared to meet the unique challenges presented in the post 9-11 world," said Lt. Governor Steve Pence who oversees the functions of the Office.

MERRY CHARISTMANS AND HAPPY NEW YEAR

NEWS FROM THE KENTUCKY MEDICAL RESERVE CORPS

PADUCAH-MCCRACKEN COUNTY MRC

Paducah-McCracken County Medical Reserve Corps held an organizational meeting on November 15. Several attended, and several others asked to be added to the membership list even though they could not attend. The group will meet again in late January. Plans are to begin by reviewing a plan for internal organization, training, and a credentialing in collaboration with the McCracken County Emergency Management Agency. We encourage all health professionals and others with experience or a special interest in health and support services to join us.

For information about Paducah-McCracken County Medical Reserve Corps contact

Kathie Hunt,
270-519-4904.

ASHLAND –BOYD COUNTY –CATLETTSBURG MRC

The ABCMRC has already done our Incident Command classes and our Haz-Mat classes since September. Our IMRC (immediate Medical Reserve Corps) group is up and running with 16 members, and our Forensics program is in the process of enlisting members. We currently have a total of 116 members. We are planning a tabletop drill for March and another hands-on drill in May. Our group has assisted London, Ky with the basic leg work to get their MRC up and running, and are working with Christian County also.

If you need any more information, please let me know. Have a wonderful holiday season!

Andi Hunt

LOUISVILLE-JEFFERSON COUNTY MRC

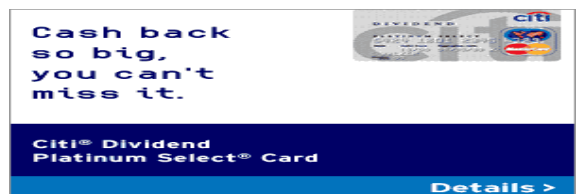
There hasn't been much activity since the Statewide CCC meeting so not much to update. We did train 30 Spencerian nursing students on Nov. 30th but don't know how many of them intend to volunteer for the MRC yet. Things will most likely slow to a crawl between now and the first of the year, but I will keep you posted on anything we are doing! Happy Holidays!

Marcy Heilman

C.E.R.T. News

Posted on Tue, Dec. 14, 2004

Response team passes smoky house final exam



10 VOLUNTEERS MAY HELP IN MAJOR DISASTER

By Jason McAlister

HERALD-LEADER STAFF WRITER

"The scenario: an earthquake, 8.2-plus, a smoke-filled home with victims," John Sawyer, a Lexington firefighter and instructor, said last night.

The scene was a final exam for 10 graduates of the Community Emergency Response Team, who earned their axes after stopping a fire and treating mock victims at the fire training center on Old Frankfort Pike. After 24 hours of classwork and passing last night's exam, the team is added to a list of volunteers who could be called to the scene of a major disaster to help emergency responders.

Team member Terry Tipton, 58, put on her hard hat, gloves and a reflective vest while loading up a backpack with first aid supplies.

Flashlight and walkie-talkie in hand, she and the team coordinated their response to a two-story, smoke-filled home designed for training.

Catherine Deehan, 25, helped spray an extinguisher on a pan fire.

As taught, she backed away from the smoke, never turning in case of a flare-up.

"I can't find my dog?" Vicki Herald, a Lexington firefighter, said, acting as a victim inside a smoky room.

"We'll get someone to your dog A.S.A.P.," said team member Paul Treadway, who escorted Herald to the triage area, where others in the group treated a heart attack victim and someone in shock.

"These people are a team, which makes a difference," instructor Dion LeMieux said.

The Community Emergency Response Team project was funded by the Federal Emergency Management Agency and will have several more training classes, the next beginning Feb. 1. For more information, call the Lexington Division of Environmental and Emergency Management at (859) 258-3784.
